



CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

March 19, 2014

Senator Terry Gerratana, Co-Chair Public Health Committee
Representative Philip Miller, Co-Chair Public Health Committee
Senator Jason Welch, Ranking Member Public Health Committee
Representative Prasad Srinivasan, Ranking Member Public Health Committee

Members of the Public Health Committee,

Raised House Bill #5542 – AAC THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PRIMARY SERVICE AREA TASK FORCE

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. Our Association represents more than 26,000 paid and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. I would like to comment on the subject bill on the agenda for today's public hearing.

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association would like to commend the Public Health Committee of the 2013 General Assembly for realizing that there was a need for this Task Force. It is our understanding that the current process of assigning Primary Service Area responders has been in use from the 1970's without changes. We applaud these discussions.

We are, however, concerned that although the Task Force arrived at a conclusion and submitted five (5) recommendations for consideration, the Public Health committee chose to only include four (4) of these recommendations in this legislation. Even though the fifth recommendation was passed by a majority vote of the Task Force, this legislative proposal still does not include that recommendation.

We believe that although this bill is a start to improve certain EMS services in Connecticut, we believe that including Recommendation #5 would make it a better bill. We ask that the Public Health committee seriously consider including this additional recommendation which will benefit the citizens of Connecticut.

Respectfully,

Ted Schroll Jr.

Ted Schroll Jr., Legislative Representative
Connecticut State Firefighters Association

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